

REMARKS

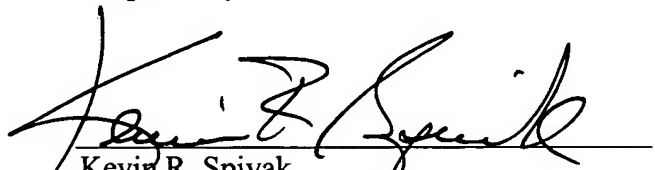
The above amendments to the specification, claims, and abstract have been made to place the application in proper U.S. format and to conform with proper grammatical and idiomatic English. None of the amendments herein are made for reasons related to patentability. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 449122020500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

For the convenience of the Examiner, the changes made are shown below with deleted text in strikethrough and added text in underline.

In the Specification:

Page 1 before the first paragraph, please delete the following:

~~Description~~

Page 1, between lines 5 and 6, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

This application claims priority to International Application No. PCT/DE00/02643 which was published in the German language on August 8, 2000.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method for operating an information center in a telecommunication network, and to an arrangement for carrying out the inventive method.

Please delete the heading beginning at line 4 of page 1 in its entirety.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 1 in its entirety.

Please replace the heading beginning at line 25 of page 1 with the following rewritten heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 27 of page 1 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

The information centers addressed essentially have the task of providing call number information and, if necessary, setting up the connection to the subscriber required by the caller. In addition, these centers normally provide a multiplicity of additional services, including, by way of example, the connection of telephone conference calls, simultaneous translation or monitoring of the length of a call. The functionality of such an information center is also described by the term "Call Center".

The use of a mainframe pursues the objective, firstly, of collecting the status reports from the connected information desks, such as "free" or "busy", storing them centrally and, on the basis of this information, connecting an incoming call to an information desk using the exchange ~~and secondly. Secondly, of providing they provide~~ processes and data which need to be available centrally in order to be able to satisfy the demands placed on such an information center, and also of permitting connection to external data networks. A mainframe having the aforementioned properties is also known by the term "Computer Telephone Integration Server", or "CTI Server" for short.

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 28 of page 2 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

US 5848143 U.S. Patent No. 5,848,143 entitled "Communications system using a central controller to control at least one network and agent system" dated March 4, 1996 ~~also~~ discloses that it is possible to increase the resistance to failure of an information center by using a "primary central controller" and a "redundant central controller" of identical design thereto. In this context, a central controller performs typical tasks of an information center, for example generating control signals for distributing the calls to the information desks, and requesting status and utilization level of an information desk. The primary central controller and the redundant central controller are connected to one another via a data line which is used

to interchange "heartbeat messages". If, by way of example, the primary central controller fails, this message, reception of which in the redundant central controller is regularly checked, is no longer sent. If ~~it is also not possible to set up~~ a connection from the redundant central controller to the primary central controller using a path other than the aforementioned data line is not possible to set up, it is assumed that the primary central controller has failed. The tasks of the primary central controller are therefore performed by the redundant central controller until the primary central controller is operational again.

On the basis of the prior art, ~~resistance-reducing~~ to failure is ~~essentially~~ achieved by duplicating the components in question, with the ~~resistance-reduction~~ to failure being greater the more components there are available in duplicate. A drawback ~~in this context~~, however, is that this solution is associated with a comparatively high level of technical complexity.

Page 3, between lines 24 and 25, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method for operating an information center in a telecommunication network, where, the information center is connected to an exchange, the information center comprises both a mainframe and at least one information desk having at least one telecommunication terminal, the mainframe is connected to the exchange, the information desk is connected to the exchange and to the mainframe via data transfer devices, and the basic function of distributing the incoming calls and setting up a voice link to a telecommunication terminal on the information desk is incorporated in the exchange.

The invention also relates to an arrangement for carrying out the inventive method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 25 of page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention ~~is therefore based on the object of specifying~~ discloses a method for operating an information center of the type mentioned in the introduction in which the cited drawbacks do not arise.

Please delete the heading at line 30 of page 3 in its entirety.

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 32 of page 3 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

~~The invention~~ In one embodiment of the invention, achieves this object with there is a method for operating an information center ~~of the type mentioned, where, in addition,~~ The method includes, for example, the exchange continuously checks the ready status of the mainframe and of the telecommunication terminals, including the communication links thereto, and detects any fault arising, the mainframe continuously checks the ready status of the telecommunication terminals, including the data transfer path thereto, detects any fault arising and reports this to the exchange, and if the information desks cannot be reached via the mainframe, the exchange at least performs call distribution and sets up a voice link to a telecommunication terminal on the information desk.

In one ~~particularly advantageous refinement embodiment~~ of the invention, during fault-free operation, the distribution of calls to the information desks is performed on the mainframe, and at least status reports from the units connected to the exchange are processed within the latter. During fault-free operation of the information center, the exchange thus has comparatively little loading.

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 31 of page 4 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In one ~~particularly advantageous refinement embodiment~~ of the invention, if a telecommunication terminal on the information desk cannot be reached, at least call distribution and the setup of a voice link to another, ready telecommunication terminal on the same information desk are performed. Duplication of the telecommunication terminals and of the transfer paths to the exchange significantly increases the resistance to failure of the information center.

~~The object of~~ In another embodiment of the invention, there is an is also achieved with an arrangement ~~for carrying out the inventive method, in which the.~~ The arrangement includes, for example, an information center ~~is connected to an exchange, in which the~~ information center comprises both a mainframe and at least one information desk having at least one telecommunication terminal, in which the mainframe is connected to the exchange, in which the information desk is connected to the exchange and to the mainframe via data transfer devices, in which ~~the basic function of distributing the~~ distribution of incoming calls and setting up a voice link to a telecommunication terminal on the information desk is incorporated in the exchange, in which the exchange comprises ~~means for a device to~~ continuously checking the ready status of the mainframe and of the telecommunication terminals, including the communication links thereto, and also a device to detect any fault arising, in which the mainframe comprises a device to continuously check the ready status of the telecommunication terminals, including the data transfer path thereto, and ~~also means for detecting any~~ a device to detect a fault arising and ~~means for reporting a device to report~~ this fault to the exchange, and in which the exchange comprises ~~means for a device for~~ call

distribution and for setting up a voice link to a telecommunication terminal on the information desk if the information desks cannot be reached via the mainframe.

In one advantageous ~~refinement~~ embodiment of the invention, the telecommunication terminal provided on the information desk is a personal computer equipped with ~~means for a~~ device for voice input and voice output, and ~~also with means a~~ device for connection to the telecommunication network and ~~means for~~ data transfer to the mainframe. The ~~means~~ device provided for voice input may be, by way of example, a microphone, and the ~~means~~ device provided for voice output may be headphones. For connection to the telecommunication network and to the data network, plug-in cards are used, for example, which ~~essentially~~ permit the data to be converted into a serial data format in line with the respective transfer protocol. The simultaneous connection to a telecommunication network and a computer data network makes it possible to meet the demands placed on the telecommunication terminal in a particularly user-friendly manner. In addition, if the data transfer path to the mainframe fails, restricted operation can be maintained. In this context, the functionality during restricted operation depends ~~essentially~~ on which data and processes are incorporated locally in the personal computer on the information desk. In the course of the disclosure, it may be pointed out that the increasing integration of voice data into the computer data networks means that there is ~~no~~ not an absolute need for there to be a difference between the data protocols of the telecommunication network and of the data network for the mainframe. This merging is also known by the term "Voice over Internet Protocol".

It is ~~particularly~~ advantageous if the information desk comprises ~~both~~ a telephone and a personal computer having the aforementioned properties. In addition to the advantages already cited, the full functionality of the information desk is maintained even if one of the two telecommunication terminals cannot be reached. Besides this, emergency operation can be maintained even in the event of total failure of the personal computer, for example on

account of a power failure, since the telephone is supplied with the required power by the exchange.

Please replace the heading beginning at line 10 of page 7 with the following rewritten heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 12 of page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention is explained in more detail with reference to ~~the figure~~ Figure 1, which shows ~~the illustrative~~ an exemplary arrangement of the elements of an information center.

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 12 of page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 18 of page 7 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

The information center CC shown in the figure comprises a mainframe CTI and a plurality of information desks AP1 to APn which are of identical design and each comprise a telephone TEL and a personal computer PC. In the exemplary embodiment, both the telephones TEL1 to TELn and the personal computers PC1 to PCn are connected to the exchange VST via ISDN basic accesses, ~~but although~~ analog connecting lines are also conceivable may also be used. The personal computers PC1 to PCn are additionally connected

to the mainframe CTI via data lines combined in a bus structure. The mainframe CTI is likewise connected to the exchange VST via a data line.

~~The illustrative Referring to the information center works in the manner below, where firstly in Figure 1, normal operation but also and~~ restricted modes of operation, caused by failure of at least one element of the information center, are explained:

During normal operation, an incoming call is reported by a program running in the exchange VST, the "call distribution program", to the program running on the mainframe CTI, the central program. Using the information available on the mainframe CTI, which information also includes the states "free" and "busy" for the information desks AP1 to APn, the central program determines to which information desk AP1 to APn the call will be forwarded. In addition, the mainframe CTI is also used to provide the data and processes needed for full operation of the information center CC, and also the connection to external service providers. The staff at the relevant information desk AP can now use the personal computer PC to provide the service they require. The status reports from the information desks AP1 to APn are continuously recorded both by the central program and by the call distribution program. Apart from collection and storage of these status reports, the call distribution program has no other tasks during normal operation.

If the mainframe CTI or a line connected thereto fails, this is detected by ~~means of the~~ call distribution program. The ~~latter~~ call distribution program then performs ~~the function of a~~ call distribution required for an information center CC ~~whatever happens~~, and connects incoming calls to the telephone TEL or to the personal computer PC on the respective information desk AP. When normal operation can be resumed following repair of the damage, an appropriate report is sent by the central program to the call distribution program. The ~~latter~~ call distribution program then limits ~~its~~ functionality to the extent provided during normal operation.

If a telephone TEL, or its line connected to the exchange VST, on an information desk AP fails, the full functionality of the information center CC is maintained. The same applies for failure of a personal computer PC or of a data line connected thereto, with services which typically require the use of a computer not being able to be provided, or being able to be provided ~~only~~ to a restricted degree.

In the Claims:

Patent Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A method for operating an information center (CC) in a telecommunication network, ~~where,~~ comprising:

connecting the information center (CC) ~~is connected~~ to an exchange (VST), wherein the information center (CC) comprises ~~both~~ a mainframe (CTI) and at least one information desk (AP) having at least one telecommunication terminal;_i

connecting the mainframe (CTI) ~~is connected~~ to the exchange (VST);_i

connecting the information desk (AP) ~~is connected~~ to the exchange (VST) and to the mainframe (CTI) via data transfer devices;_i and

~~the basic function of distributing the incoming calls and setting up a voice link to a telecommunication terminal on the information desk (AP) is incorporated in the exchange (VST),~~ wherein

~~characterized~~

~~in that~~ the exchange (VST) continuously checks ~~the~~ a ready status of the mainframe (CTI) and ~~of the~~ at least one telecommunication terminals, including the communication links thereto, and detects any fault arising,

~~in that~~ the mainframe (CTI) continuously checks the ready status of the at least one telecommunication terminals, including the data transfer path thereto, detects any fault arising and reports ~~this~~ detected faults to the exchange (VST), and

~~in that,~~ if the at least one information desks (AP) ~~cannot be~~ is not reached via the mainframe (CTI), the exchange (VST) ~~at least performs~~ at least call distribution and sets up a voice link to a one of the telecommunication terminals on one of the respective information desks (AP).

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

~~characterized in that,~~ during fault-free operation, the distribution of calls to the information desks (AP1) to (APn) is performed on the mainframe (CTI), and at least status reports from the units connected to the exchange (VST) are processed ~~within the latter~~.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

~~characterized in that~~ restricted operation of the information center (CC), caused by at least partial failure of the mainframe (CTI) or of a line connected thereto, is maintained by the exchange (VST) ~~on its own~~ until the mainframe (CTI) ~~is ready to resume~~ normal operation.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

~~characterized in that,~~ if a telecommunication terminal on one of the information desks (AP) ~~cannot be~~ is not reached, at least call distribution and the setup of a voice link to another, ~~ready~~ telecommunication terminal on the same information desk (AP) are performed.

5. (Amended) An information center (CC) in a telecommunications network, comprising: ~~which is prepared for carrying out a method as claimed in claims 1 to 4 and~~

~~in which the~~ an information center (CC) ~~is connected to an exchange (VST),~~
~~in which the exchange (CC) comprises~~ comprising both a mainframe (CTI) and at
 least one information desk (AP) having at least one telecommunication terminal,
~~in which the mainframe (CTI) is connected to the exchange (VST),~~
~~in which the~~ at least one information desk (AP) is connected to the exchange (VST)
 and to the mainframe (CTI) via data transfer devices, and
wherein distribution of ~~in which the basic function of distributing the incoming calls~~
 and setting up a voice link to the at least one a telecommunication terminal on the information
 desk (AP) is incorporated in the exchange (VST),
 characterized
~~in that the exchange (VST) comprises means for~~ continuously checking the ready
 status of the mainframe (CTI) and ~~of the~~ at least one telecommunication terminals, including
 the communication links thereto, and ~~also means for detecting any fault arising,~~
~~in that the mainframe (CTI) comprises means for~~ continuously checking the ready
 status of the at least one telecommunication terminals, including the data transfer path thereto,
 and ~~also means for detecting any fault arising and means for reporting this~~ reports any
detected fault to the exchange (VST), and
~~in that the exchange (VST) comprises means for~~ performs call distribution and ~~for~~
~~setting~~ sets up a voice link to the at least one a telecommunication terminal on the at least one
 information desk (AP) if the information desks (AP) ~~cannot be~~ is not reached via the
 mainframe (CTI).

6. (Amended) The information center (CC) as claimed in claim 5, wherein
~~characterized in that the~~ at least one telecommunication terminal provided on the at
least one information desk (AP) is a personal computer (PC) which ~~comprises means for~~

performs voice input and voice output, ~~means for connection~~ connects to the telecommunication network and ~~means for~~ performs data transfer to the mainframe ~~(CTI)~~.

7. (Amended) The information center ~~(CC)~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one telecommunication terminals provided on the at least one information desk ~~(AP)~~ are a telephone ~~(TEL)~~ and a personal computer ~~(PC)~~, and ~~in that~~ the personal computer ~~(PC)~~ comprises ~~means for~~ a voice input and voice output device, ~~means for connection to the telecommunication network and means a unit~~ for data transfer to the mainframe ~~(CTI)~~.

8. (Amended) The information center ~~(CC)~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one telecommunication terminal on the at least one information desk ~~(AP)~~ is connected to the exchange ~~(VST)~~ via at least one ISDN basic access.